

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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## V Corps mechanics keep Army vehicles rolling on Iraqi roads

Story and photo by Marni McEntee, Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Getting ahold of spare parts is usually one of any Army unit's greatest challenges. In Iraq, it definitely is.

"You can't get parts up here," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Binnari, who leads the mechanics of V Corps' Special Troops Battalion in Iraq.

"You need to hold on to every part you get and beef up your supplies."

That's exactly what Binnari, whose 17 soldiers keep the top brass' wheels on the road, did before the unit moved from Kuwait to Baghdad during the war.

Having heard in August about a possible deployment to the desert, Binnari's Heidelberg, Germany, unit started laying aside every part needed to keep the vehicles for the generals and their staffs on the road.

"Some people may call it excess, but if you didn't have those parts, you wouldn't survive," Binnari said.



**Pfc. Ross Scarbrough tightens the lug nuts on a Humvee wheel. Scarbrough and mechanics at V Corps' Special Troops Battalion kept 800 vehicles in top shape during the Iraq war.**

In the months leading up to the move to Kuwait, the unit moved to Poland for Operation Victory Strike, a war game mimicking what was expected in the Middle East. Then, it deployed part of its unit to Grafenwöhr, Germany, as part of Operation Internal Look.

**continued on page 2**



**READY TO BLOW** — Staff Sgt. Jason McClintock, 707th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, prepares to blow up unexploded ordnance found in As Salaam, a suburb of Baghdad, on May 21. Joint EOD in Task Force Neighborhood policed up or blew in place approximately 25 122mm and 125mm tank rounds, an assortment of rocket-propelled grenades, and also numerous 23mm rounds. The 707th EOD (Army) and MU6 EOD (Navy) were part of many assets in Task Force Neighborhood. TFN is designed to clean up Iraq and help show the people of Iraq that the United States is here to help. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jeremiah Lancaster

## Ordinance NCO recalls ‘claim to fame’

The U.S. military has found and destroyed hundreds of thousands of pounds of munitions in Afghanistan belonging to al Qaeda and Taliban fighters during Operation Enduring Freedom - an operation that did not end when Operation Iraqi Freedom began.



“Afghanistan has really put us out there,” Staff Sgt. Robert Shallbetter said, an explosive ordinance specialist with the 756th Ordinance Disposal Company, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

From May to mid December, the company destroyed 300,000 pounds of explosives in Afghanistan.

Shallbetter said when field units found weapon caches, his team would go out and assess the weapons’ stockpile, and later destroy it.

On Oct. 2, 2002, Shallbetter’s company detonated 420 bombs and dispensers, or 125,000 pounds of ordinance near Kandahar - possibly the largest ordinance disposal detonation in history. News of the large explosion was broadcast on CNN.

Before the explosion, a few villages near the detonation site were evacuated as a precaution.

“We call it our claim to fame,” Shallbetter said.

In April, speaking with AUSA NEWS at the Association of the United States Army’s logistics symposium and exhibition at the Greater Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Va., Shallbetter said “the biggest curveball” in Afghanistan was not having the team’s

### V Corps mechanics keep Army vehicles rolling on Iraqi roads continued

Finally in January, the mechanics put all of the vehicles, including generators and other equipment, on a ship to Kuwait.

While at Camp Virginia in Kuwait, the mechanics’ usual inventory of 240 vehicles grew to 800 when they became the chief mechanics for the 3rd Infantry Division’s command post.

Knowing a trek north into Iraq was imminent, the mechanics worked 18- to-20-hour days making sure all the vehicles were ready to roll.

It was hard to prevent the omnipresent desert sands from fouling engine parts.

“It was rough, but we had to do it,” said Pfc. Ross Scarbrough, a 19-year-old mechanic from Grand Rapids, Mich.

By the time the mechanics got to Victory Camp in Baghdad, they had been on the road virtually nonstop for more than six months.

In the end, they made it to Baghdad without a single breakdown.

“When we deployed here, all the vehicles made it here under their own power,” Binnari said.

ordinance disposal truck on hand. The truck has almost any tool or piece of equipment required to render an explosive safe.

At times, the team needed special equipment airlifted in to handle ordinance.

However, “I think one thing we’re good at is that we’re very flexible; being able to adapt” to a situation at hand, Shallbetter said.

He added, “People are beginning to understand what we bring to the battlefield.”



*Staff Sgt. Robert Shallbetter, 756th Explosive Ordinance Disposal Company*

Briefly describing the type of work he does, Shallbetter said the most important job is “rendering that fuse safe. The thing that’s going to get you is that fuse,” he said.

Once the fuse is separated from the ordinance explosive, the piece can be safely transported to a destruction site or saved for other uses.

Shallbetter said in Afghanistan, his team didn’t have difficulty identifying and destroying the ordinance they found.

“We have a pretty good system of publications,” Shallbetter said. Instructions can be referred to quickly on computer CDs.

In the event that they couldn’t identify a type of bomb or missile, the ordinance specialist is to collect as much information as possible about the device to send to experts in the United States or elsewhere.

When the disposal team’s utility truck is on hand, dozens of specialized tool kits and hundreds of piece of equipment are available to the specialists.

Exhibited at the Association’s recent symposium, tools range from the sophisticated to the ordinary.

Ordinance disposal specialist teams carry with them ordinance blast and fragment shields, a laser range finder to designate a safe down-range distance from an explosion, and large tools used to blast fuses apart from missile explosives.

**continued on page 4**



# Trucks could be linked to Iraq bioweapons

by John J. Lumpkin

WASHINGTON (AP) - Two trucks found in northern Iraq filled with laboratory equipment are the strongest evidence yet that Saddam Hussein had a biological weapons program, the CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency said in a report Wednesday.

No actual prohibited weapons were found in the trucks, but intelligence officials say the vehicles fit the description of a mobile biological weapons laboratory received from an Iraqi source. That source, a chemical engineer who claims to have managed one of the mobile labs, identified photographs of the captured trailers, the new intelligence report says.

The report comes as U.S. military forces in Iraq search for proof of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs that the Bush administration said was justification for the war that overthrew Saddam's regime last month.

Earlier this month, Pentagon officials said the discovery of the first trailer - seized at a checkpoint near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on April 19 - could prove Iraq had active programs to produce weapons of mass destruction.

It and a second lab found in May have already been inspected by U.S. and British technical experts and a group of scientists from coalition countries. Another team of international experts arrived in Iraq Saturday to inspect the evidence and will likely need a few more days, U.S. officials in Iraq said Monday.

While the new report describes the trailers "as the strongest evidence to date that Iraq was hiding a biological warfare program," U.S. officials have not reported finding any proof that Iraq had such weapons ready for use.

The report says the first truck was captured by Kurdish allies in late April and turned over to U.S. forces. The second, though already looted, was found by U.S. forces in early May at the al-Kindi Research, Testing, Development and Engineering facility in Mosul.



*U.S. weapons hunters of Site Survey Team 5 test for the presence of biological weapons at a suspected storage facility in Rutbah in the Western Iraqi desert, 250 miles from Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, May 23, 2003. Frustrated weapons hunters are turning away from outdated U.S. intelligence leads, which have failed to turn up any evidence of chemical, biological or nuclear arms in Iraq, despite 10 weeks of searches. As a massive restructuring prepares to take shape, teams are now moving toward some of their own intelligence gathering, based in large part on interviews with Iraqi scientists, factory workers and even the neighbors who lived near shady operations once run by Saddam Hussein. (AP Photo/Dafna Linzer)*

Both contained equipment, such as fermenters, that could be used to make biological weapons, the report says.

"Examination of the trailers reveals that all of the equipment is permanently installed and interconnected, creating an ingeniously simple, self-contained bioprocessing system," the report says. "The trailers probably are part of a two- or possibly three-trailer unit. Both trailers we have found probably are designed to produce BW agent in unconcentrated liquid slurry."

A third trailer, found in Baghdad, is a mobile toxicology laboratory from the 1980s, the

report says. It could have legitimate uses or be part of a weapons program.

The report dismisses alternate explanations for the trailers.

Captured Iraqi scientists have claimed the vehicles were for producing hydrogen for weather balloons that would support conventional artillery. The report acknowledges the trailers could be used to make hydrogen but says it would be inefficient compared to widely available commercial hydrogen generation systems.

"BW (Biological weapon) agent production is the only consistent, logical purpose for these vehicles," the report says.

The reports about the trailers, based largely on the Iraqi engineer's description, were a key component of Secretary of State Colin Powell's February 2003 presentation to the United Nations regarding Iraq's alleged weapons programs.

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# Attackers strike at troops in Afghanistan

by Todd Pitman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Attackers set off a remote-controlled bomb near a vehicle carrying U.S. special forces along Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan, but no casualties were reported, a U.S. military spokesman said Wednesday.

The device went off as the troops were conducting a reconnaissance patrol at a border checkpoint near the eastern town of Khost. Col. Rodney Davis, the U.S. military spokesman, said in a statement from Bagram Air Base.

"The device was detonated by remote control. There were no injuries and only a cracked windshield and headlamp to the vehicle," Davis said.

In Gardez, northwest of Khost, attackers fired two rockets Wednesday afternoon toward a U.S. base in the town, said the Afghan military commander, Abdul Matin Hasankhiel.

The rockets, however, fell far short of their target and exploded in a deserted area two miles south of Gardez, Hasankhiel said.

Attackers frequently fire rockets at U.S. bases in southern and

eastern Afghanistan, but the rockets are crude and rarely hit their targets.

Last week, a U.S. special forces soldier was lightly wounded in an explosion that appeared to be caused by a homemade bomb near Gardez. It also detonated near a U.S. military vehicle, and shrapnel struck a soldier's neck but did not seriously injure him.

About 11,500 coalition troops, the majority of them American, are in Afghanistan carrying out operations in search of Taliban rebels and their allies. The Taliban were overthrown in a U.S.-led war in 2001.

Coalition troops regularly seize weapons caches found in caves or hidden in villages. The weapons are usually destroyed or handed over to government authorities.

Davis said U.S. special forces had recovered a cache of up to 800 anti-tank and anti-personnel mines from a compound near Gardez. The mines will be destroyed.

Around 200,000 people have been injured by mines and unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan over the last two decades of war, according to the International Red Cross. The country is one of the most heavily mined nations on earth.

## Ordnance NCO recalls 'claim to fame' continued

The teams also have with them boxes of colored Crayola markers, pencils and graph paper to sketch out schematics and to take measurements.

Shallbetter said ordnance disposal specialists go through nine months of schooling to qualify for their military occupational specialty. "They cram in a lot of information," Shallbetter said.

He added that ordnance disposal specialists "utilize as much time to train as possible. You can get called at any time. You're constantly on the go."

At school, classes are broken into divisions on how to deal with ground ordnance, air ordnance and also chemical ordnance.

"In Afghanistan we didn't encounter any, fortunately," Shallbetter said, referring to chemical weapons.

If they had, he said there are several ways to dispose of them. One way is causing an explosion and ensuing fire that will consume and burn off the chemical agent.

The demand for ordnance disposal specialists inside the military and out since the U.S. began its global war on terrorism has increased dramatically in response to more and more calls reporting suspicious packages in public places, bomb sweeps of airports, power plants and public buildings, officials from the new Department of Homeland Security reported to the House Armed Services Committee earlier this year.

In the United States, units, like Shallbetter's, make "house-calls"

when a suspicious package arrives at someone's home or office, or when an relative of a veteran finds a hand grenade kept as a souvenir.

Shallbetter's company also has the distinction of having two soldiers with President George W. Bush's security detail at all times in the event that a bomb is discovered near a site where the president is scheduled to be.

How he came into ordnance disposal is a story in itself.

Three years ago, Shallbetter had no intentions of getting involved with explosive ordnance disposal when his M2 Bradley fighting vehicle crew fired a TOW missile down range at Fort Lewis, Wash.

That would change a short while later when the tube launched, optically tracked, wire guided missile didn't explode on impact.

When the team arrived to render the faulty missile explosive safe, he got to talking with some of the team members.

"Most people in [this military occupational specialty], for whatever reason, needed EOD assistance," Shallbetter said, explaining how he and other explosive ordnance disposal specialists get into the career field - MOS 55D.

"And really, most recruiters don't know what we do," he said. "So we do our own recruiting because we're short personnel."

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# Rumsfeld says Iraqi problems real but workable

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 27, 2003 – Iraq, with the help of the Coalition Provisional Authority, will work past its current problems, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York May 27.

Rumsfeld said Iraq's problems are real, but shouldn't be blown out of proportion. Every country making a break with its past has gone through similar trauma.

Rumsfeld talked about a country that faced "looting, crime and mobs storming government buildings, the breakdown of government structures and institutions that maintained civil order (and) rampant inflation caused by the lack of a stable currency." He continued describing "supporters of the former regime roaming the streets and countryside whose fate has to be determined, regional tensions between north and south, delays, bickering and false starts in the effort to establish a new government."

That country, the secretary pointed out, was the United States at the end of the American Revolution. "Those early years of our young republic were characterized by chaos and confusion," he said. "Our first effort at a governing charter — the Articles of Confederation — failed miserably, and it took eight years of contentious debate before we finally adopted our Constitution and inaugurated our first president."

Iraq suffers all this, plus the added trauma of decades of denial and brutal rule, Rumsfeld noted. "It is now just seven weeks since the liberation of Iraq, and the challenges are there," he said. "Just as it took time and patience, trial and error, and years of hard work before our founders got it right — so too will it take time and patience, trial and error, and hard work for the Iraqi people to overcome the challenges they face today."

But, the secretary said, the Iraqis have an advantage over early Americans. The war plan to topple Hussein was such that most of the infrastructure is undamaged. The oil fields — the Iraqi source of wealth — are safe and will soon begin pumping. Coalition forces safeguarded Iraqi dams and worked to limit civilian casualties.

"Iraq could conceivably become a model — proof that a moderate Muslim state can succeed in the battle against extremism taking place in the Muslim world today," Rumsfeld said. "We are committed to helping the Iraqi people get on the path to a free society."

The Coalition Provisional Authority is not about to impose a template of western democracy on the country. "Iraqis will figure out how to build a free nation in a manner that reflects their unique culture and traditions," he said.

The goal is a representative government for all of Iraq that protects the rights of all citizens, does not threaten its neighbors and believes in the rule of law, the secretary said.

The authority in Iraq will not use a template, but will use guidelines, Rumsfeld noted. "First, while our goal is to put functional and



**TASK FORCE NEIGHBORHOOD** — Soldiers talk with translators and civilian group leaders to get the number of workers needed to help clean up the Baghdad suburb of As Salaam May 21. Task Force Neighborhood is designed to clean up Iraq and help show the people of Iraq that the United States is here to help. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jeremiah Lancaster

political authority in the hands of Iraqis as soon as possible, the Coalition Provisional Authority has the responsibility to fill the vacuum of power in a country that has been under a dictatorship for decades, by asserting temporary authority over the country," he said. "The coalition will do so. It will not tolerate self-appointed 'leaders.'"

The coalition will provide security and restore law and order to the country. "The coalition is hiring and training Iraqi police and will be prepared to use force to impose order as required," he said. "Because without order, little else will be possible." Coalition forces will remain in the country as long as it takes to maintain order "and no longer."

The secretary said that 39 nations have offered stabilization forces or other needed assistance, and that number is growing.

Working with the Iraqis, the authority will continue rehabilitating basic services such as electrical power, pure water and sewage disposal — all neglected by the former regime.

The coalition will work to staff ministries quickly with competent, acceptable Iraqis. "The coalition will work with forward-looking Iraqis and actively oppose the old regime's enforcers — the Baath Party leaders, Fedayeen Saddam and other instruments of repression, and make clear that it will eliminate the remnants of Saddam's regime," Rumsfeld said. "Those who committed war crimes or crimes against humanity will be tracked down and brought to justice."

He said this process may cause inefficiencies, "but it is critical to removing pervasive fear from Iraqi society."

The secretary stated that market systems are the best route forward

**continued on page 6**



# Digital technology transforms logistics in Iraqi Freedom

by Spc. Bill Putnam

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, May 27, 2003) — Time and digital technology helped win Operation Iraqi Freedom, even if huge gambles were taken with extended supply lines, said Army generals in charge of logistics at a video teleconference May 19.

The build up to both wars in the Persian Gulf took about six months but there were big differences in getting soldiers to the front line, said Brig Gen. Vincent Boles from Baghdad.

There was virtually no equipment pre-positioned in the Persian Gulf area before Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and moving that equipment there was critical, said Boles, the commander of Army Material Command's Logistics Support Element in Iraq.

Port size and the numbers of ports were probably one of the biggest differences between Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Brig. Gen. Jack Stulz, the deputy commander of the 377th Transportation Support Command.

Kuwait has just one port dedicated to commercial shipping and that limited the number of ships that could be in port, he said.

There are three big ports in Saudi Arabia and that allowed a larger amount of ships to off-load at the same time during Desert Storm, he explained.

The "key" for OIF was the Army Pre-positioned Stocks of vehicles, ammunition and supplies that floated or sat in warehouses before the war, Stulz said.

Those supplies and vehicles were enough to field five brigade-sized units, he said.

Distances in the two wars were very similar but their approach to the building up for those eventual wars was vastly different, Stulz said.

In Saudi Arabia the distance from the port to the frontline was about 600 kilometers while that distance in Kuwait was only about 75 kilometers, Stulz said.

But the distances those supplies had to travel from Kuwait into Iraq extended to about 600 kilometers, he said.

During Operation Desert Storm the Army tried to build mountains of supplies, about 60 days worth, he said.

For Operation Iraqi Freedom there were only about five to seven days of supplies on hand, Stulz said.

"We didn't build mountains, we moved it and smoothed it out much like you do in civilian business," said Stulz, who is an activated Army Reservist, of the build up to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The advent of digital technology also helped track what supplies were on a ship, where on that particular ship they were and where the ship was, said Boles.

During Desert Storm, the Army could track what was on the ships bound for Saudi Arabia, but not where a certain container of spare parts was because that technology simply wasn't around then, he said.

But it was new technology in OIF — that proved the transformation idea -that also helped track where supply convoys were on the ground in Iraq, said Brig. Gen. Jerome Johnson.

The new Blue Force Tracking system that uses Global Positioning Systems proved instrumental to finding out where supplies were, said Johnson the director for plans, operations and logistics readiness for the Army's G-4.

Often times a unit from the 3rd Infantry Division might report a particular location and be gone before a supply convoy could arrive, he said. Commanders could track the movement of that unit and direct the supplies to that new place, he said.

While the tracking system isn't on every vehicle in the Army, the war proved that the system does work and funding to put on every vehicle is being worked out, Johnson said.

What went exceedingly well was the joint effort between the branches of the U.S., Stulz said.

"We took combined equipment to war as one team, in one fight," he said.

## Rumsfeld says Iraqi problems real but workable continued

for the country. Under Hussein, it was a command economy with all decisions made by a small circle in Baghdad.

"The coalition will favor activities that will begin to diversify the Iraqi economy beyond oil," he said. "The coalition will encourage moves to privatize state-owned enterprises. And it will work to provide enterprise-driven economic development opportunities for the Iraqi people." The coalition is setting up a system so Iraq's oil wealth will be used for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

Rumsfeld said that countries, the United Nations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations are all welcome to assist in Iraq. "They can and are playing an important role," he said. "The Coalition Provisional Authority will work closely with them to maintain a focus of effort."

Help from neighboring countries is encouraged, he said. "Conversely, interference in Iraq by its neighbors or their proxies will not be permitted," he said. "Indeed, Iran should be on notice that efforts to try to remake Iraq in their image will be aggressively put down."

Finally, in assisting the Iraqi people, the United States will do what

**continued on page 7**

# Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies opens

by Curt Biberdorf

NATICK, Mass. (Army News Service, May 28, 2003) — The Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies, a joint research collaboration between the Army and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, formally opened during a ceremony in Cambridge, Mass., May 22.

Founded in March 2002 by a \$50 million grant from the Army, the institute's mission is to develop technologies for advancing soldier protection and survivability, officials said, by combining basic and applied research in nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Scientists and engineers will be reaching for large results from the smallest of objects. Often at the level of manipulating individual atoms and molecules, nanotechnology involves the design and production of new materials or complex devices at the nanometer scale. A nanometer is about 50,000 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair.

The research may be obtuse, but the benefits are clear, said Charles Vest, president of MIT, during the ceremony. The vision is a 21st century lightweight bulletproof and waterproof battle uniform no thicker than ordinary spandex that monitors health, eases injuries, communicates automatically and potentially lends superhuman abilities.

"We already have the smartest soldiers. Now we're going to give them the smartest uniforms," said Claude Bolton, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology.

Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, transition team director, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (Provisional), said the importance of the new institute "cannot be overstated."

"When you look back to the Middle Ages and fast forward to today, we can't say we've come a long way," Doesburg said. "The technology that we saw today is revolutionary. What better place than this to do it."

Nanotechnology once seemed far-fetched, but new equipment and tools can already create new materials, and in coming years we'll develop new machines for nanomaterials, said Vest.

Bolton said it was only in the last 10 years that scientists were able to actually see atoms.

"You can't do better than at the atomic level," said Richard Smalley, a professor at Rice University, who further emphasized the thought expressed by previous speakers that the benefits of the institute affect more than the military. "In all this nurturing, we may make the next new technology that leads all people to prosperity. This research will lead to other discoveries that will help the world."

Spc. Jason Ashline from the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Drum, N.Y., testified to the importance of the work to be done before cutting the ribbon to open the institute. During a firefight in Afghanistan, the infantryman survived a hit to the chest from an AK-47 rifle round because of the protective body armor he was

wearing.

Guests at the event were guided on tours of the Institute's 28,000 square feet of space on the fourth and fifth floors of 500 Technology Square on MIT's campus. The space consists of extensive, flexible laboratories; offices for students, visiting researchers and MIT faculty; and headquarters.

Research is currently under way in protection, performance improvement, and injury intervention and cure.

At three stations, demonstrators showed how fluids could be used to engineer a dynamic armor system that automatically changes from flexible to stiff when a ballistic threat is detected, how two separate nanoscale coatings for water resistance and microbe-killing can be combined and applied to textiles, and a method of creating artificial muscles that could provide extra strength for lifting or jumping, or serve as automatic tourniquets.

The facility contains state-of-the-art nano-fabrication and nano-characterization capabilities along with easy access to the rest of MIT's research infrastructure.

About 150 faculty, graduate students and post-doctoral research associates divided into seven research teams will apply their skills on nearly 50 research projects. Several visiting scientists from Army laboratories and participating industrial partners also will be part of the staff.

Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi, Md.; U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center and U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, both at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.; and industry partners illustrated their roles in making an

advanced uniform system with displays at a first floor exhibit.

Roaming about the displays were soldiers wearing the latest uniforms for Objective Force Warrior and Future Warrior. Both are product concepts that will incorporate nanotechnology.

MIT was chosen as the "best of the best" universities for the institute while the industry partners will help to speed transition to the field, said A. Michael Andrews, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for research and technology/chief scientist, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army.

## **Rumsfeld says Iraqi problems real but workable continued**

needs to be done, "but should not be considered the first and only donor of funds."

The secretary said that America has already made a significant investment to liberate Iraq and stands ready to contribute to the rebuilding efforts. "But when funds are needed, the coalition will turn first to Iraqi regime funds in Iraq, Iraqi funds in the Oil-for-Food Program, seized frozen Iraqi regime assets in the U.S. and other countries, and international donors, many of whom are already assisting," he said.

## Native American women's exhibit opens at Women's Memorial

by Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., May 27, 2003—Army Spc. Lori Piestewa didn't move a mountain, but her death on the battlefield in Iraq touched a nation and changed a mountain's name.

"Squaw Peak," the Phoenix summit with a name that's offensive and controversial to some, is now "Piestewa Peak" — a hero's name.

Among other tributes to the fallen warrior, Piestewa and five others are featured in "Voices," a new exhibit that opened at the Women's Memorial on May 26 to honor and highlight the contributions of Native American women who serve in the armed forces.

A Hopi Indian, Piestewa was given special honors by tribal representatives from across the country because she was the first service woman killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first known Native American service woman known to have been killed in combat.

The 23-year-old soldier from Tuba City, Ariz., died from injuries when her unit, the 507th Maintenance Company, was ambushed on March 23 near Nasiriyah, Iraq, by enemy forces in Iraq. She was promoted posthumously.

Her family and representatives from several nations and tribes — among them Hopi, Navajo, Oneida, Odawa, Chukchansi-Mono, Kumeyaay, and Lakota/Dakota — were here for the exhibit's unveiling ceremony.

In keeping with Native American heritage and culture, the tribes showered the Piestewas with gifts — blankets, shadow boxes, paintings and eagle feathers.

For example, Vice Chairman Aaron Jones and council members Rob Castro and Craig Martinez from the Table Mountain Rancheria Chukchansi-Mono tribe, presented the Piestewa family four blankets representing life, love, strength and knowledge and reason.

Piestewa's brother, Adam, told the large audience that on Memorial Day everyone should remember and salute all men and women of the armed services and their families "for their tireless efforts and willingness to sacrifice all they have to give in the name of America."

"We remember those innocent souls whose lives were not lost in vain on the morning of Sept. 11th," Piestewa said. "We honor the warriors who have throughout history laid down their lives for their fellow man and preserved the God given right to freedom."

For Hopi tribe chairman Wayne Taylor Jr., Memorial Day has always been set aside as a time to honor fallen veterans. "But it should also be a time to honor all veterans, male, female, reserve, active duty, Hopi, Hispanic, Asian, Caucasian and African-American," he noted. "It should be a time to reflect and be grateful for the few who valiantly defend what we have grown accustomed to.



*Army Spc. Lori Piestewa's parents, Terry and Priscilla "Percy" Piestewa, stand proudly during May 26 ceremonies at the Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va., honoring their daughter, who was killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Rudi Williams*

"It should not be limited to this day, or times of conflict and war, but it should be recognized and observed in some fashion every day," Taylor said. "We need to be daily reminded that it is the contribution of our veterans which gives us the opportunity to live freely."

Taylor said after Lori Piestewa was killed in action, the most frequently asked question on the Hopi reservation was: "Why did Lori join the Army?"

"Many have speculated and derived their own answers," Taylor noted. "Perhaps it was because she followed in the legacy of those before her — her father, a Vietnam veteran, and her grandfather, a World War II veteran.

"Maybe it was because of early ROTC involvement," he said. "Only Lori could give us the answer. Whatever the reason, the question should not be why did she, but rather, why is it strange for her not to?"

The tribal chairman said Piestewa and the other five veterans being honored, as well as many other Native American women who enlist in the armed forces, "joined because of one reason that unites us all: They were Americans," Taylor said, "Americans who simply answered the call of duty. And we are grateful to them and to all of those who continue to do so."

Taylor pointed out that only 111 of the hundreds of Native American

**continued on page 9**



# Special pays could decrease for some service members

by Rick Maze, ArmyTimes staff writer

Imminent-danger pay and family-separation allowance for service members not serving in combat zones would drop on Oct. 1 under a House Armed Services Committee proposal.

Under the plan, approved May 14 by the committee as part of the 2004 defense authorization bill, service members deployed in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom and in the Persian Gulf for Operation Iraqi Freedom would get \$225 a month in danger pay and \$250 in family-separation allowance.

Other people eligible for those pays, who now get those same rates, would see danger pay drop to \$150 and family-separation allowance to \$100 on Oct. 1.

The proposal is far from final. Congress is not expected to make its ultimate decision until later this year when a final version of the defense bill is approved.

The unprecedented two-tier benefits plan is a result of the committee's efforts to deal with unexpected increases in wartime pays included in the wartime supplemental appropriations bill that President Bush signed into law April 16.

The supplemental bill, now Public Law 108-11, included monthly increases of \$75 in danger pay and \$150 in family-separation

allowance, retroactive to Oct. 1. Eligible service members should have received back pay for the retroactive increases in mid-May checks, according to Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

Although the increases were retroactive to last October, they are only temporary. Rates for danger pay and family-separation allowance revert to the previous rates this coming Oct. 1, unless Congress extends the payments.

The Senate Armed Services Committee decided to make permanent the increases in both pays for all eligible service members in its version of the 2004 defense authorization bill, which it approved May 8.

Cost differences in the House and Senate approaches are substantial. The Senate's blanket approach has a price tag of \$428 million. By limiting the increases just for troops in combat zones, the House cut the price to \$312 million.

A driving force behind the House committee's desire to hold down costs is that it wants to increase the size of the active-duty force by 6,243 people next year and needs to find money to pay for that.

Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y., chairman of the House Armed Services total force subcommittee, has made that initiative one of his highest priorities. He allocated \$291 million for the active-duty increases and another \$43.4 million for an increase of 1,145 dual-status National Guard technicians.

The Senate bill contains no increases in active-duty personnel.

## Native American women's exhibit opens at Women's Memorial continued

women veterans have registered at the Women's Memorial. "I would like to encourage our Native American women veterans to register and be counted for your contribution to this country," Taylor said.

Eagle feathers have long been the symbol of bravery, love, honor, friendship and mystical powers. And that's just what Oneida Indian Daniel King, president of the Wisconsin Indian Veterans Association, presented the family along with a shadow box.

Before making the presentation, King said, "We may indeed put Pfc. Lori Piestewa to rest, but her example of warriorism, her response to the call, her courageous example of honor in the face of horror, brings honor to us all."

King said Piestewa will be mentioned in the annals of Indian heroes throughout the course of time. And it's well deserved.

"There is an old warrior saying: 'When you adorn yourself with the implements of war, you are ready to kill. It is only right then, you must be prepared to die as well,'" King noted. "As Indian people, we know how to face war, we know how to sacrifice, we know how to honor, we know courage. We know how to remember."

The exhibit will remain at the Women's Memorial through November, American Indian Heritage Month. The memorial is the nation's only major memorial honoring all service women — past, present and future.

continued on page 9



*Spanish airmen stand in respect as Turkish soldiers carry the coffin of a Spanish soldier into a military plane bound for Spain at the Trabzon, Turkey airport on Wednesday, May, 28, 2003. A Ukrainian plane carrying 62 Spanish peacekeepers and 12 crew members returning from Afghanistan crashed as it tried to land to refuel near Turkey's Black Sea city of Trabzon early Monday, killing all on board. (AP Photo/ Burhan Ozbilici )*



*An Iraqi police officer makes his way past razor wire while a U.S. armoured vehicle stands guard outside the police station that was earlier attacked with RPG and grenades in Baghdad, Tuesday, May 27, 2003. Damage was minimal but according to a witness a few people were injured in the attack. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)*

## Ordnance Corps reaches out to associations

The top enlisted soldier in the Ordnance Corps Proponency Office said that it was natural “to gravitate toward industry” in developing the current force because “they have certification” that can better serve the Army with more highly trained soldiers and help soldiers find better jobs when they take off their uniform.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Herrell said that when the corps adopts its enlisted vision it began by looking at “big name associations” that certify technicians in auto repair, welding and other skills as holding keys to the future.

He said that these were steps in building a culture of professionalism in corps. “We operate in this little void but, in reality, we are closely aligned” with what they were certifying to the civilian world.

The question became: “Why don’t we reach out to them?”

And the Ordnance Corps did, Herrell said. “There’s a wealth of information available from them that can be compared to individual

### **Special pays could decrease for some service members continued**

Differences in the House and Senate bills must be reconciled before a final bill is approved — and those differences could become even more pronounced.

When the bill is debated on the Senate floor, Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., is expected to offer an amendment seeking even bigger hikes in danger pay and family-separation allowance.

Durbin, who orchestrated the increases included in the wartime supplemental bill, has talked of raising both payments to \$400 or more a month.

training,” and soldiers “can benefit from the latest advances in technology.” He cited the machinist and welding courses in Advance Individual Training as examples of what he was talking about.

He said that partnering was the “answer to our dilemma” of staying current. It also helps overcome a lack of time in the classroom and resources to provide continuous training. “We are asking soldiers to do this as self-development. That is the key”

Herrell said, “We [in the Army] don’t recognize technical competency and put it down on paper about this soldier being a great mechanic. There’s got to be something in it for the soldier” to want to become certified.

And that means “to award promotion points.” Herrell said that the course of instruction is covered up to \$2,000 by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “Then a soldier says to himself: ‘This technical certificate offers me value - for promotion and civilian employment.’”

Herrell said that is important for many in the corps because 47 percent of the soldiers in it leave after their first enlistment.

Soldiers see the value in the program, he said.

At the unit level, “we’ve seen them become so motivated that they take [the course] at nights and weekends.”

Herrell said that another aspect of the enlisted vision for the Ordnance Corps was having the Army school house accredited. “The American Welding Society evaluates our curriculum and said: ‘You meet our standard.’”

**continued on page 11**

## Ordnance Corps reaches out to associations continued

He said that accreditation also came from the National Institute for Metal Working Skills on the machinist course. "We're an Ordnance Corps. And we will begin to change the culture of our corps as we closely align with civilian skills."

He said that the corps had asked the automotive engineers to design a patch that could be worn on uniforms in the motor pool as a visible sign to the world of their skills. "We're hoping to address this at another time."

Herrell said 12 percent of the active force - 118,000 soldiers — are serving in the Ordnance Corps, so what happens inside it has implications for the whole Army and the Noncommissioned Officer Education System.

All told 26,000 students pass through the Ordnance Corps schoolhouse in a year.

"I look at the NCOES and look at the assignment I went into and none of those schools prepared me for the assignment."

He said that with that in mind there could be an overhaul of some courses - especially their length. He added that what he is looking for in a soldier is the "motivation to open the manual" once he or she arrives at their assignment and to really learn what they are supposed to be doing. "Self-development is the most powerful tool. If we

don't reward it, we won't be successful in the future," he said.



Certification is only one strategy in raising professionalism among Ordnance Corps soldiers.

Herrell said that Ordnance Corps soldiers are serving apprenticeships with General Dynamics Land Systems on the Stryker and with the American Welding Society. "When you start talking about apprenticeships, we're not afraid they're going to all leave."

Adding, "Any time we have the opportunity wave our Army flag, we ought to do it," Herrell, who has been in the Army for 23 years, said.

"Accreditation and certification is a powerful recruiting tool," the man who entered the Army planning to stay four years, learns how to weld and then gets a well-paying civilian job.

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*South Korean soldiers, foreground, and North Korean soldiers, background, on guard duty at the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas, 60 kilometers (37.5 miles) north of Seoul, amid tensions over the North Korea's suspected nuclear programs, Wednesday, May 28, 2003. (AP Photo/Kenji Hall)*



# Hope's birthday brings veterans' thanks

by Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Bob Hope might need another century to be thanked by all the veterans who cherish the wisecracker's performances for U.S. troops.

From World War II to Desert Storm, Hope swaggered fearlessly through battle zones as if strolling the back nine of a golf course. As he turns 100 on Thursday, Hope remains the only civilian named an honorary veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The ailing comic, who spends most of his time at his Toluca Lake estate, is no longer able to communicate and was not expected to appear at any of the numerous birthday celebrations. But his centennial has many servicemen offering remembrances of the entertainer, whose signature song is "Thanks for the Memory."

"Just knowing he was coming was a release to everybody because when he's there, you're safe and you're back home, even if you're not," said Michael Teilmann, who was an Army major in Vietnam in 1968 when he saw his first Hope military show.

Teilmann, now a retired brigadier general with the National Guard, heads the Bob Hope Hollywood USO center at Los Angeles International Airport. While in Vietnam, Teilmann also saw the comic at the Danang air base in 1971.

Even better than Hope's self-deprecating shtick, some servicemen said, was the eye candy in his United Service Organization shows - beauties like Jayne Mansfield, Raquel Welch and Brooke Shields.

"Just knowing that Hope was coming rippled excitement up and down," Teilmann said. "People were so excited knowing Hope would bring some pretty girls, bring (bandleader) Les Brown and it's going to be fun."

Although Hope was playing for hardened military men - to whom coarse language and sex jokes are practically standard-issue - the act was never raunchy.

"He kept it fairly clean," said Chuck Bradbury, 65, of Easton, Pa., a Navy communications technician who saw Hope perform twice on the island of Guam, in 1957 and 1958. "He bordered on risqué some of the times with some of his women, but he always kept it tolerable."

On Wednesday, the Stars and Stripes military newspaper web site featured stories from readers who delighted in the ways Hope would snub military brass to fraternize with regular guys. Veterans in Bangor, Maine's Memorial Day parade took a photo and sent Hope a card with hundreds of signatures. Birthday wishes came from Shalimar, Fla., where Hope held benefits to build homes for widows and dependents of Air Force enlisted personnel.

Some veterans who missed Hope's show still felt entertained by his visit. The gatherings created a sense of good will that spread beyond the makeshift field theaters.

"Everyone who could possibly make it was there," Don Poss, now



*Banners celebrating Bob Hope's 100th birthday adorn Riverside Drive in the legendary comedian's hometown, the Toluca Lake district of Los Angeles, Wednesday, May 28, 2003. The ailing comic spends most of his time at his Toluca Lake estate and has made no public appearances in recent years. But his centennial Thursday, May 29, has many servicemen and ordinary citizens sharing their memories of the entertainer, whose signature song is "Thanks for the Memory." (AP Photo/Red Saxon)*

58, of Corona, Calif., said of a 1965 Danang show. But Poss, a dog sentry handler with the military police, was ordered to patrol the base perimeter during the event.

"We could hear the screaming and yelling all the way back to the base," he said. "For days afterward it was like a trail of excitement, coming and going - looking forward to it and talking about it."

Did it matter that he didn't actually get to see Bob Hope? "Not in the least!" Poss said. "Our imaginations did the rest."

Some veterans said they grew up idolizing Hope, and felt cheered by his admiration of them.

"I'd been watching his shows since I was 4 years old. Just to participate in it, to be there ... the audience was the show," said Michael F. Trochan, 55, of Ringwood N.J., who saw Hope at Danang on Christmas 1970. "We were part of history. You just had to be there. Just happy times, like one of your friends or relatives coming into town."

"Like we still talk about 'Remember the Alamo?'" said Trochan, who was a radio repair worker with the 101st Airborne Division. "I think we should say, 'Remember the Bob Hope show,' because it was important. It brought us together."